

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
ON THE NINTH MEETING OF THE JAPAN-UK JOINT COMMITTEE
ON CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(Summary of Discussions)

The ninth meeting of Japan-UK Joint Committee on Co-operation in Science and Technology, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, took place in Tokyo, Japan on 4th November 2014, under the Agreement between the two governments on co-operation in Science and Technology. The Joint Committee was referenced in the Japan-UK Joint Statement of 2014, which underlined the importance of cooperation in science, technology and innovation in driving economic growth and addressing global issues.

The Joint Committee was co-chaired by Mr. Makoto KATSURA, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Sir Mark WALPORT, the United Kingdom Government Chief Scientific Adviser and was attended by Dr. Yuko HARAYAMA, Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Cabinet Office of Japan and a range of other representatives from Japan and the UK governments and government agencies.

1 Session1: Recent Development in National STI Policies

The two delegations updated each other on recent development in national STI policies, including Japan's Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP), Impulsing Paradigm Change through Disruptive Technologies (ImpACT) Program and New Initiative for Medical Research in Japan and the UK's investment in science and research, industrial strategies, science clusters and international science strategy.

Both sides exchanged the updated information on Japan-UK S&T collaboration examples, which shows a number of valuable research cooperation currently being undertaken between Japanese and UK research institutions and universities.

Both sides took note of the Scoping Workshop held in Tokyo in October 2012, and affirmed the progress of the cooperation in the areas discussed in

the Workshop (attached).

The Joint Committee confirmed that the bilateral S&T cooperation between Japan and the UK had been steadily evolving and forms a solid base for future bilateral science, technology and innovation cooperation. Both sides emphasised the importance of supporting women in science, inspiring and supporting the next generation of scientists and engineers in priority areas, and exploring approaches to supporting truly innovative, disruptive technology development.

2 Session 2: S&T Research Bases for Innovation

Both sides reaffirmed that both countries have a large number of common interests in the field of science, technology and innovation, and shared challenges, experiences, and views on human resource development, infrastructure and facilities for innovation, institutional level cooperation and industrial-academic-government cooperation.

Both sides expressed a desire to exchange further information on innovation systems and explore ways in which Japan and the UK can cooperate on innovation support to build and improve science and technology research bases and the environment for facilitating innovation, including exploring links between Japan and UK universities to support entrepreneurship and innovation.

Both sides recognised the importance of the discussions held at Japan-UK Universities Conference for Collaboration in Research and Education, held in London on 1st May, co-hosted by University College London and the Embassy of Japan in the UK, and in cooperation with the British Council, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and looked forward to holding continued discussions on cooperation between universities and to developing Japan-UK collaboration in research through these efforts.

3 Session 3: STI cooperation for Global Challenges

Both sides discussed opportunities for science, technology and innovation cooperation for global challenges in areas such as health, medical

science, aging, energy and environment, and climate change.

The Joint Committee shared common understanding of the importance of further international partnership and research cooperation in these areas dealing with the major challenges of global issues. Both sides highlighted the importance of inspiring and supporting the next generation of scientists and engineers in priority areas.

The Joint Committee welcomed the progress of cooperation between JST and UK Research Councils on joint funding of Japan-UK cooperative research projects, including optical microscopy for neuroscience disease challenges (MRC), systems biology (BBSRC) and advanced materials (EPSRC). Both sides looked forward to the future cooperation between JST and BBSRC under the Strategic International Collaborative Research Programme (SICORP).

The Joint Committee looked forward to the possible collaborative activity in the field of stem cell and regenerative medicine.

4 Session 4: STI for Future Society

Based on the policy exchange, the Joint Committee had fruitful discussions on how science, technology and innovation contribute to the future society, highlighting disaster risk reduction and resilience, approaches to using science advice for emergencies and contingency planning, risk communication and public engagement on science.

Ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games, the Committee noted Japan's efforts to accelerate science, technology and innovation targeting 2020, and shared experience from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including use of the best available science, technology and engineering to deliver a safe, successful and sustainable Games and the opportunity for public engagement on science, technology and engineering.

The Committee shared experiences on use of science advice for emergencies, as well as contingency planning, and looked forward to

continuing to work together for wider experience sharing.

Both sides, recognised the importance of sharing experience and knowledge on foresight and futures analysis, welcomed that the 1st Japan-UK Futures Analysis and Horizon Scanning Working Group would be held on 6 November, and looked forward to continuing to work together to explore further collaboration in this area.

5 Next meeting

It was confirmed the next Joint Committee would be held in the UK and the specific date of the meeting will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.